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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE UCT 22 1936 A
AGRICULTURAL ADJUSTMENT ADMINISTRATION 8. Department of Agriculture
DIVISION OF INFORMATION

CHILDREN OF THE EARTH

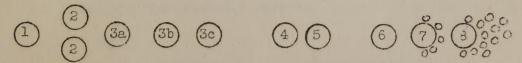
A suggested pageant dealing with Agricultural Conservation for production by 4-H Club members, Smith-Hughes students, Young People's organizations, and other rural groups for use at county fairs, achievement days, and meetings of various kinds attended by adults as well as by young people. A suggested amusement feature for meetings of church groups. Parent Teacher Associations, Granges, etc.

This pageant shows in dramatic form the effect of erosion on the land and the farm family. It shows that low yields, high costs, and low income follow erosion and that this generation, as well as generations to come, suffers when the land is neglected. It contrasts this picture with a picture of what happens when the land is managed according to sound, established farm practices.

"Children of the Earth" can be expanded to include as many children and young people as the local group desires to participate. It can be adapted to local conditions and can be produced at practically no cost, requires only the simplest kind of music, and is suitable for both indoor and outdoor presentation.

The pageant consists of two major groups. Each circle in the diagrams represents a boy or girl and is keyed to the descriptive paragraphs by a number.

FIRST GROUP



All participants in this group to be dressed in rags, bare feet, dirty; hollows under eyes and in cheeks, and bones in hands emphasized

with burnt cork; hair mussed. Heads should hang low, bodies bent forward, faces express tragedy; mouths open, eyes rolling. They should groan and sign deeply and be of grotesque appearance.

Undernourished and thin children are not required for this group; children taking the following parts should delight in make-up and enjoy acting.

Key to Diagram for First Group

- 1 (Placard) "I Am Erosion." A tall slender boy in black tights, bones indicated on tights in white, bones in hands emphasized with burnt cork or by use of painted gloves, long paper finger nails. Hollow cheeks, wears a black mask, and is gruesome in appearance.
- 2 (Banner) "We Are the Children of Erosion." Dirty, poorly dressed children.
- 3 (Banner) "Low Yields." Carried by three boys.
 - a. Dressed in empty sack with few corn husks sticking out, sack labeled "Corn!" Caps made of corn husks.
 - b. Dressed in empty sack with wheat straw sticking out, sack labeled "Wheat." Caps made of straw.
 - c. Carrying cut-out of runty hog, or a very poor cow, or dressed to represent low cotton yields whatever would be best for local conditions.
- 4 (Placard) "High Costs." Carrying enormous bag on which is lettered a dollar sign; bag might be filled with toy balloons.
- 5 (Placard) "Low Income," carrying an enormous pocketbook open and empty.
- 6 (Placard) "I Am the Farmer on Eroded Land," a very poor farmer dressed in rags, hardly able to walk.

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- 7 (Banner) "We Are the Farmer's Family on Eroded Land," group of very dirty children, dressed poorly, etc.
- 8 (Banner) "We Are the Children of the Children on Eroded Land."

 Group of very small and dirty children, horrible in appearance;

 younger than preceding group.

SECOND GROUP



All participants in this group should be neatly dressed in clean working clothes. They should walk briskly with a spring in their step; heads and bodies erect, chests out, faces alert and happy.

Key to Diagram for Second Group

- 1 (Placard) "I am Agricultural Conservation." Alfalfa, clover, and other legumes sewed to old overalls. Cap of grass.
- 2 (Banner) "We are the Children of Conservation." Small boys dressed in suits of grass.
- 3 (Banner) "Good Yields," carried by three boys.
 - a. Dressed in stuffed sack with ears of corn peeping from top.

 Cap of corn husks.
 - b. Dressed in stuffed sack labeled "Wheat." Cap made of wheat straw.
 - c. Carrying cut-out of a good hog, good dairy cow, or dressed to represent good cotton yields whatever would be best for local conditions.
- 4.- (Placard) "Low Costs," carrying small bag easily and without effort. Bag has dollar sign on it.

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- 5 (Placard) "Good Income," carrying an enormous pocketbook, stuffed fat with paper, green paper showing to suggest money.
- 6 (Placard) "I Am the Farmer Who Saved His Land." Good, substantial farmer, well but plainly dressed.
- 7 (Benner) "We Are the Children of the Farmer Who Saved His Land."
 Group of happy, healthy children in clean working clothes.
- 8 (Banner) "We Are the Children of the Children on Saved Land."
 Group of happy, healthy children in clean working clothes,
 younger than the preceding group.

MUSIC

The pageant can be improved considerably by the introduction of some simple kind of music. When the first group comes before the audience, they should, of course, be walking feebly and give one the impression of the tragedy resulting from the neglect of land. The music might be a funeral march. The group might be swaying their bodies and waving their arms in a grotesque fashion, rolling their eyes and groaning either as a unit or separately.

When the second group appears, the participants should be walking briskly, chests thrown out, happy, smiling alert faces, and the music is quick march time.

A number of variations on the above theme might be worked out so that the pageant will have a greater dramatic power; more acting and spoken or sung lines might be introduced.

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